



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

December 4, 2009

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **CAPITAL OPTIONS FOR REDUCING EMERGENCY ROOM PATIENT OVERFLOW AT COUNTY HOSPITALS (ITEM NO. S-1, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 20, 2009)**

On October 20, 2009, your Board approved a motion directing the Chief Executive Office to report on capital options that will address emergency room overflow and patient overcrowding at County hospitals. To provide a base for the development of such options, we have engaged HDR Architecture Inc. (HDR) to:

- assess current inpatient bed and emergency department capacity needs for selected services within the County hospital system; and
- provide an estimate of future inpatient bed and emergency department capacity needs at each facility.

HDR is performing this assessment under the direction of the Departments of Public Works and Health Services. The assessment is scheduled for completion in April 2010 and will include a review of the acute care medical/surgical beds at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANRC) that support overflow patients from the LAC+USC Medical Center as well as local area hospitals.

Based on the findings of this assessment, we will develop recommendations regarding capital improvements that may be necessary to meet projected inpatient bed requirements, including developing permanent options for your Board to consider regarding overflow patients from other County-owned hospitals and potential funding alternatives. We plan to present our recommendations to your Board in June 2010.

STATUS FOR BED STUDY

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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For purposes of clarification, the acute care, medical/surgical beds at RLANRC are not reflected in the documentation that we are recommending for submittal to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to meet SB 1953 seismic retrofit requirements and maintain our compliance extension under SB 306. The SB 1953 compliance program, as approved by your Board in 2006, is focused solely on rehabilitation inpatient beds and support services. Acute care, medical/surgical beds were not in use at RLANRC in 2006 and, therefore, were not included in the SB 1953 program.

Pursuant to SB 306, the County was granted an extension to the initial SB 1953 compliance deadline of January 1, 2013, for the RLANRC rehabilitation inpatient beds, to January 1, 2020. Failure to submit required project documentation by December 31, 2009, will result in a withdrawal of the 2020 extension and a reversion to the 2013 deadline for SB 1953 compliance at RLANRC. Failure to meet the SB 1953 compliance deadline would result in the withdrawal of the hospital's license and the closure of RLANRC.

Given the time required to complete design activities, obtain jurisdictional approvals, and complete construction, compliance with a reinstated 2013 deadline is unattainable. As such, approval of the project documentation by your Board on December 15, 2009, is deemed to be essential to maintaining operations at RLANRC beyond 2013 and to 2020.

It is important to note that submittal of the project documentation by December 31, 2009, and maintenance of the extension for SB 1953 compliance to 2020 will provide sufficient time for recommendations regarding the addition of acute care, medical/surgical beds to the County hospital system to be considered by your Board and implemented. The recommendations we will present to your Board in June 2010 in response to your Board's October 20, 2009, motion will focus on this issue, with the intent of initiating such a policy discussion with your Board on the need, quantity, location, and funding of additional acute care, medical/surgical beds in the County hospital system.

I am available to discuss this with you at your convenience, or your staff may contact Jan Takata at (213) 974-1360.

WTF: SK:DJT  
SDW:mc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Acting County Counsel  
Department of Health Services  
Department of Public Works

STATUS FOR BED STUDY